



West Central Region RR Update

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This newsletter is published by staff from the Remediation and Redevelopment Program of the DNR, to keep interested parties informed about the cleanup and redevelopment of contaminated properties in the West Central Region. We hope this semi-annual publication will strengthen public, private, and community partnerships that support efforts to clean up and return properties to environmentally safe and economically productive uses.

Feature: *Tool Talk*

The RR Toolbox

In each issue of the Update, we provide regional examples of how financial, technical, and policy tools are being used to implement cleanups.

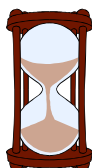


- ✓ begin preparing cost estimates for grant activities, and;
- ✓ start the process to adopt a municipal resolution (a required part of the application).

Financial Tools: *Site Assessment*

Grant Applications Due February 13

Funding for the Site Assessment Grant (SAG) program has been continued at \$1.7million annually for this biennium. Over the first three rounds of the SAG program, nearly \$275,000 of eligible activities have been funded in eight WCR communities, leveraging more than \$170,000 in grant match funds from municipalities. (See “*Menomonie: Former Champlin Oil*” on page 4.) Grantees have used the funds to conduct a variety of activities, including environmental assessments, site investigations, demolition, asbestos abatement and removal of storage tanks and abandoned containers.



The next round of SAG applications will be due February 13. In order to be ready in February, communities should begin planning now to:

- ✓ identify priority brownfields properties;
- ✓ begin securing access to properties;

Application forms and detailed application instructions are currently available at the following web address:

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/rr/rbrownfield/s/sag.htm>.

State-Funded Response Sites Approved for Funding

A number of sites in the West Central Region have just received approval to utilize monies from the state Environmental Fund for the current 2003-2004 fiscal year. DNR staff use the fund to cover costs for investigation and cleanup of sites with serious environmental contamination, where the responsible party is unknown, unable or unwilling to respond. Whenever possible, action is taken to recover costs at properties with responsible parties.

Through state-funded response actions, the state Environmental Fund is used for a variety of activities, such as excavating contaminated soil, installing landfill caps, installing treatment systems to remove pollutants from groundwater, and providing emergency bottled water to residents with contaminated wells.

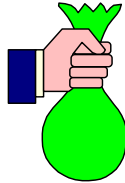


Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
P.O.Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707



Below is a list of sites in the West Central Region that have benefited in recent years from the state Environmental Fund. Sites preceded by an asterisk have been approved for some level of funding during the current 2003-2004 fiscal year:

- **Chippewa County**
North Eau Claire
Better Brite, Chippewa Falls
*Rihn Oil, Bloomer
- **Clark County**
Village of Granton
Abbotsford Well
*Neillsville Foundry
- **Crawford County**
Bell Center Landfill, Haney
- **Eau Claire County**
City of Augusta
Eastenson Salvage, Eau Claire
Eau Claire Municipal Well Field
Phoenix Lead Site, Eau Claire
- **Jackson County**
Home Oil, Merrillan
Melrose Well #3
Village of Merrillan Water Supply
- **Juneau County**
*Hustler Hardware, Hustler
*New Lisbon Municipal Wells
- **La Crosse County**
Holmen I and Holmen II
La Crosse Water Supply
Onalaska Municipal Landfill
Tarco South, Onalaska
National Auto Wrecking
*Holmen Well #4
- **Marathon County**
Town of Weston-Mesker #2 Well
Gorski Landfill, Mosinee
Town of Stettin
Town of Weston
Holtz-Krause Landfill, Wausau
City of Wausau/Marathon Electric Landfill
Mid-State Disposal Landfill,
Town of Cleveland
Standard Container, Edgar
*Weisenberger Tie and Lumber, Marathon
*Murray Machinery, Wausau
Halder Water Supply
Elderon Water Supply
Abbotsford Perchloroethylene
Village of Halder
Unity Auto Mart, Unity
*Eppler's Tavern, Elderon
- **Monroe County**
Ashwander Site, Sparta



- Tomah Well #8
*Wittig Oil, Wyeville
*Badger Café, Tomah
 - **Portage County**
Amherst Perchloroethylene
 - **St. Croix County**
Junker Landfill, Town of Hudson
Troutbrook, Hudson
Phoenix Metals
*Town of Warren Private Wells
 - **Trempealeau County**
Village of Arcadia Water Supply
 - **Vernon County**
Viroqua Well
*Westby Dry Cleaners, Westby
 - **Wood County**
Luchterhand Disposal, Marshfield
*Pittsville Well
- *Sites approved for some funding this fiscal year

Policy Tools: “Flexible” Closure

In 1996, the Department of Natural Resources developed “flexible” closure rules. These administrative rules allow for site closure before state groundwater quality standards are achieved, provided the following conditions are met:



1. the source of the groundwater contamination is removed or contained;
2. the groundwater plume is stable or receding (i.e. not spreading), as demonstrated by at least four rounds of quarterly sampling;
3. “natural attenuation” (physical, chemical, and biological processes) will reduce groundwater contamination to below state standards in a reasonable period of time;
4. institutional controls are in place (see related “Tech Tools” story, page 3); and
5. no threat to public health and safety exists.

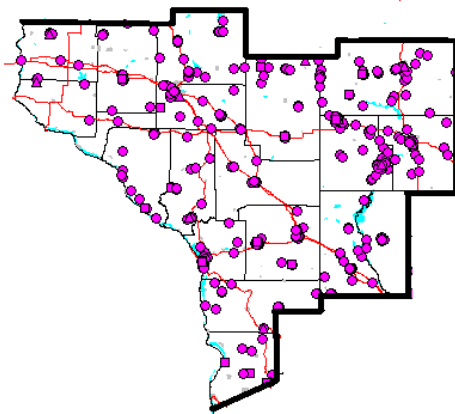
Here in the West Central Region, the DNR works together with the Department of Commerce to close more than 80 sites per year via flexible closure, most of them underground storage tank sites.

Tech Tools: *GIS Registry of Closed Remediation Sites*

One of the conditions that must be met for sites to achieve “flexible” closure (see related story in “*Policy Tools*” column above) is that institutional controls must be in place. In the past, institutional controls such as soil deed notices, soil deed restrictions, and groundwater use restrictions were often required to be recorded at the County Register of Deeds office in order for the site to qualify for flexible closure. These documents assured that future property owners would be made aware of any restrictions associated with residual contamination on a given property.

In 2000, the DNR developed a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Registry, accessible via the Internet, to allow the general public to access information on sites closed with residual contamination. This database eliminates the necessity for many deed notices and groundwater use restrictions. It is known as the GIS Registry of Closed Remediation Sites, and is accessible at <http://gomapout.dnr.state.wi.us/org/at/et/geo/gwur/index.htm>.

The graphic below shows the West Central Region portion of an interactive map, accessible at the above web address. Each dot represents a DNR site that has received flexible closure.

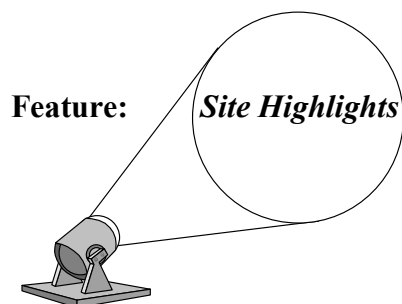


West Central Region portion of interactive map available on the GIS Registry of Closed Remediation sites, accessible online at <http://gomapout.dnr.state.wi.us/org/at/et/geo/gwur/index.htm>. Each dot represents a DNR site that has received flexible closure.

At the website listed above, the user can click on a similar map to progressively zoom in on a

given site or area and to display topographic maps and/or aerial photos. The website also allows the user to run a number of queries to retrieve site-specific information, including site maps and tables of sampling results.

Although the GIS Registry lists only closed sites with residual contamination, the Registry is linked to the Bureau for Remediation and Redevelopment Tracking System, or BRRTS, which lists all contaminated properties reported to the DNR. This database is available to the public as *BRRTS on the Web* at: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/rr/brrts/index.htm>.



Bloomer: *Bloomer Co-op Feeds Implements Spill Prevention Measures*

Wisconsin’s Spill Law, section 292.11, Wis. Stats., gives the DNR authority to require cleanup of hazardous substances released to the environment. While many communities and individuals involved in spill cleanups are aware of this authority, they may not know that the law also gives the Department the authority to require spill prevention. Under section 292.11(4), Wis. Stats., DNR staff can require that preventive measures be taken if staff finds that existing control measures are inadequate to prevent discharges of hazardous substances to the environment.

North of Bloomer in northwestern Wisconsin, Bloomer Co-op Feeds supplies feeds, fertilizer and pesticides to the agricultural community. The Co-op also provides fertilizer and pesticide application services. The facility has numerous pesticide and liquid fertilizer tanks on the property. Duncan Creek, a Class I brook trout stream, is located on the eastern boundary of the Co-op property, and the surface drainage pattern from this property runs directly to the banks of Duncan Creek.

As a result of numerous hazardous substance releases in the past, and due to concerns raised by the local field warden, DNR staff recently conducted an inspection at the Bloomer Co-op facility. During the inspection, DNR staff observed a fertilizer wagon that had rolled down the embankment to the edge of the stream.

Using the authority under the Spill Law, the Department requested that Bloomer Co-op Feeds provide an effective boundary between its facility and the creek that would allow any spilled material to be recovered before it reached the stream, and would also prevent any Co-op equipment from entering the stream.

The general manager of Bloomer Co-op Feeds submitted a plan to construct an earthen berm running the length of their property, adjacent to the stream. The berm is 16 feet wide at the base, four feet wide on top and four feet high (see photo). The berm effectively ponds all of the facility's storm water and associated contaminants at the base of the berm and prevents it from entering the stream directly. In the case of a future release, the co-op has the ability to capture the released material before it enters the stream.



Ponding of surface water drainage along a newly constructed berm at Bloomer Co-op Feeds. The berm prevents contaminated runoff from entering Duncan Creek. Photo by John Grump, DNR.

In past spill prevention efforts, many requirements have been instituted in an industrial setting within the walls of a factory or plant. This example shows that, with the cooperation of property owners working alongside DNR staff, spill prevention can be an effective tool in a rural setting to protect a high quality stream.

For more information about spill prevention and cleanup in the West Central Region, please contact John Grump at (715) 839-3775, or john.grump@dnr.state.wi.us.

Menomonie: *Former Champlin Oil*

The city of Menomonie has a new parking lot serving their central business district thanks, in part, to funding from the Site Assessment Grant (SAG) program (see related story on Page 1).

The city acquired the former Champlin Oil property by tax deed, after the owner went bankrupt in the late 1990s. Located at 720 Main Street, just 500 feet from Lake Menomin, the property was the site of a 3,200-gallon release from an underground petroleum storage tank.



Former Champlin Oil building at 720 Main St., Menomonie, prior to demolition. Photo by Cedar Corporation.

Because the property was acquired via tax deed, the city is eligible for a local governmental unit exemption, under section 292.11(9)(e), Wis. Stats. (see box on Pg. 5). Although this exemption frees the city from responsibility under the Spills Law, it requires that the city take action to reduce any substantial threat to public health or safety.

At the former Champlin Oil site, soil contamination exceeding state standards for direct human contact was present within the upper four feet of the land surface and was accessible to the public. In addition, two external wooden sheds stood in disrepair, posing other potential public health and safety concerns.

Utilizing a \$13,300 SAG grant, the city of Menomonie conducted a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment on the property and demolished the existing buildings. The city provided \$2,700

in matching funds under the grant and filled, graded, compacted, and landscaped the area.

A storm sewer, curb, and gutter were also installed, and asphalt was placed over most of the site, eliminating potential public health and safety concerns from direct human contact with contaminated soil. The site now serves as a metered municipal parking lot for 37 vehicles, serving the central business district.



Metered municipal parking lot on site of former Champlin Oil building, 720 Main St., Menomonie. Photo by Cedar Corporation.

The Local Governmental Unit Exemption

Section 292.11(9)(e), Wis. Stats., exempts Local Governmental Units from responsibility for investigation and cleanup of a hazardous substance discharge, **if** the local governmental unit acquires the property:

- ◆ through tax delinquency;
- ◆ through bankruptcy proceedings;
- ◆ through condemnation;
- ◆ through eminent domain;
- ◆ through escheat;
- ◆ for slum clearance or blight elimination;
- ◆ by using Stewardship funds; or
- ◆ from another eligible local governmental unit.

Current RR Issues and Events

Changes in Service Center Hours

Reductions in staff due to state budget cuts have prompted changes in office hours at several DNR service centers throughout the West Central Region. DNR Service Centers in Wausau, Wisconsin Rapids, Black River Falls, and Baldwin will now be closed on Mondays, and open Tuesday through Friday from 8:15 – 1p.m. and 2 – 4 p.m. DNR staff will continue to be available at their individual telephone numbers or e-mail addresses during normal business hours.

Baldwin Service Center Moves

On Monday, July 28, the DNR Service Center in Baldwin, formerly located at 990 Hillcrest Drive, opened at a new location. The Department has leased space in a new building located at 890 Spruce Street, Baldwin, Wisconsin. The public can continue to reach DNR staff at the same telephone numbers and extensions as before the move. Please see the preceding news item for the service center's new hours of operation.



New Baldwin Service Center at 890 Spruce St. Photo by John Stoffel, DNR.

Title	Name	DNR Office	Telephone
RR Team Supervisor	Bill Evans	Eau Claire	(715) 839-3710
Program Assistant	Ann Hake	Eau Claire	(715) 839-2784
Spills Coordinator	John Grump	Eau Claire	(715) 839-3775
Land Recycling Specialist (Brownfields)	Loren Brumberg	Eau Claire	(715) 839-3770
Hydrogeologist/Brownfields Outreach LTE	Mae Willkom	Eau Claire	(715) 839-3748
GIS Specialist LTE	Bill Kiechle	Eau Claire	(715) 831-3260

LTE – Limited-Term Employment
 DOT – Department of Transportation
 GIS – Geographic Information Systems

County	(High Risk) Petroleum Contamination Contact			Environmental Repair (non-petroleum contamination) & Brownfields Redevelopment Contact, if different		
	Hydrogeologist	DNR Office	Telephone	Hydrogeologist	DNR Office	Telephone
Adams	Tom Hvizdak	Wisconsin Rapids	(715) 421-7850	Dave Rozeboom	Wisconsin Rapids	(715) 421-7873
Buffalo	Tom Kendzierski	Eau Claire	(715) 839-1604	Joe Traynor	Eau Claire	(715) 839-1603
Chippewa	Pat Collins	Baldwin	(715) 684-2914	John Grump	Eau Claire	(715) 839-3775
Clark	Tom Kendzierski	Eau Claire	(715) 839-1604	Jack Eslien	Eau Claire	(715) 839-3738
Crawford	Dave Rozeboom	Wisconsin Rapids	(715) 421-7873	Dave Carper	La Crosse	(608) 785-9973
Dunn	Pat Collins	Baldwin	(715) 684-2914	Doug Joseph	Eau Claire	(715) 839-1602
Eau Claire	Pat Collins	Baldwin	(715) 684-2914	Doug Joseph	Eau Claire	(715) 839-1602
Jackson	Eileen Kramer	Eau Claire	(715) 839-3824	Same		
Juneau	Dave Rozeboom	Wisconsin Rapids	(715) 421-7873	Same		
La Crosse	Tom Kendzierski	Eau Claire	(715) 839-1604	Dave Carper	La Crosse	(608) 785-9973
Marathon	Dave Rozeboom	Wisconsin Rapids	(715) 421-7873	Lisa Gutknecht	Wausau	(715) 359-6514
Monroe	Tom Kendzierski	Eau Claire	(715) 839-1604	Same		
Pepin	Pat Collins	Baldwin	(715) 684-2914	Same		
Pierce	Pat Collins	Baldwin	(715) 684-2914	Joe Traynor	Eau Claire	(715) 839-1603
Portage	Tom Hvizdak	Wisconsin Rapids	(715) 421-7850	Lisa Gutknecht	Wausau	(715) 359-6514
St. Croix	Pat Collins	Baldwin	(715) 684-2914	Same		
Trempealeau	Eileen Kramer	Eau Claire	(715) 839-3824	Same		
Vernon	Tom Kendzierski	Eau Claire	(715) 839-1604	Dave Carper	La Crosse	(608) 785-9973
Wood	Tom Hvizdak	Wisconsin Rapids	(715) 421-7850	Same		

WCR RR Update is published by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Bureau for Remediation and Redevelopment.

This document contains some information about certain state statutes and rules but does not include all of the details found in the statutes/rules. Readers should consult the actual language of the statutes/rules to answer specific questions.

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This publication is available in alternative format upon request. Please call 608-267-3543 for more information.

For More Information

To order this and any other publications, or to find out more information about the Remediation and Redevelopment Program, please check our web site at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/rf>.